

Message Text

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

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SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION ON
BIODEGRADABILITY DETERGENTS

REF. OECD PARIS 29442

1. THE CONGRESS OF THE U.S. HAS NOT PASSED ANY LAWS
PROMULGATING STANDARDS OF BIODEGRADABILITY FOR DETERGENTS.
THE VOLUNTARY SWITCH TO LINEAR ALKYL MATERIAL BY INDUSTRY
ELIMINATED THE NEED FOR SUCH LEGISLATION. ALL ANIONIC
SURFACTANTS THAT ARE NOW USE IN HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS IN THE
U.S. ARE BIODEGRADABLE.

2. THE SCREENING TEST PROCEDURE OF THE OECD RECOMMENDED
BIODEGRADABILITY TEST METHOD FOR ANIONIC DETERGENTS
HAS BEEN GENERALLY ACCEPTED BY VARIOUS RESEARCH AND TESTING
LABORATORIES IN THE U.S. THERE IS A LACK OF ACCEPTANCE
OF THE CONFIRMATORY TEST PROCEDURE. MOST LABORATORIES
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ARE USING PROCEDURES WHICH ARE BASED ON THE SAME

PRINCIPLE, BUT ARE SOMEWHAT MORE CONVENIENT TO USE.

3. THE EXPERT GROUP ON DETERGENTS SHOULD GIVE CONSIDERATION TO MODIFICATIONS OF THE APPARATUS, VOLUME OF MEDIA, AND THE INOCULUM USED IN ORDER TO SIMPLIFY THE TEST PROCEDURE. KISSINGER

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